

CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO

RESOLUTION 53-2006

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE KNIGHT-RIDDER COUNCIL OF THE NEWSPAPER GUILD-CWA FOR A “WORKER FRIENDLY” BUYOUT OF THE KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE *AKRON BEACON JOURNAL*, AND THE CREATION OF A GROUND-BREAKING EMPLOYEE-OWNED MEDIA COMPANY OFFERING THE CHANCE TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE EMPLOYEES WANT TO WORK AND INVEST AND THEREBY PROTECTING THE LEGACY OF JOHN S. KNIGHT IN AKRON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2006 McClatchy Co., a Sacramento, California based company, announced it will acquire Knight-Ridder, Inc., the parent company of the *Akron Beacon Journal (Beacon)*, for \$6.5 billion in cash and stock; and

WHEREAS, McClatchy Co. has indicated that it plans to sell twelve of the thirty-two Knight-Ridder daily newspapers, including the *Beacon*; and

WHEREAS, the *Beacon* currently has 524 full-time and 191 part-time employees and has a long and important history in Summit County and Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the *Beacon* was founded in 1839 as the *Summit Beacon*, taking its current name in 1897 when the *Summit Beacon* merged with the *Akron Journal*; and

WHEREAS, Charles Landon Knight purchased the *Beacon* in 1903 and his son John S. Knight inherited the paper from his father and expanded into a journalistic dynasty founding Knight-Ridder Newspapers, Inc. which by 1981 employed 15,000 workers and had a circulation of 3.6 million daily; and

WHEREAS, John S. Knight also was instrumental in Akron’s growth and development, and “observing and contributing to Akron’s metamorphosis from a canal town to a heavy industrial center, to finally a post-industrial city”; and

WHEREAS, since December 2005 the Newspaper Guild-Communications Workers of America has been working to create a “Worker Friendly” buyout of the Knight-Ridder Newspapers, including the *Beacon*; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to protect the legacy of John S. Knight and quality the consumers of Knight-Ridder papers have come to expect and rely on over the decades, the Knight-Ridder Council of the Newspaper Guild-CWA is currently working in partnership with the Yucaipa Companies of Los Angeles, to create a worker-friendly and customer-friendly company to buy and improve Knight-Ridder newspapers and online services; and

WHEREAS, the Knight-Ridder Council of The Newspaper Guild-CWA has endorsed this innovative plan to create worker-friendly media company that will focus on serving customers and their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Twinsburg, County of Summit and State of Ohio:

SECTION I: The Council of the City of Twinsburg, State of Ohio supports the efforts of the Knight-Ridder Council of the Newspaper Guild-CWA for a “Worker Friendly” buyout of the Knight-Ridder Newspapers, including the *Akron Beacon Journal*, and the creation of a ground-breaking employee-owned media company offering the

chance to create a place where employees want to work an invest and thereby protecting the legacy of John S. Knight in Akron.

SECTION II: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting or meetings of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public and in full compliance with all legal requirements, including without limitation, those set forth in section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION III: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, welfare and convenience of the citizens of the City of Twinsburg, and for the additional reason to indicate this Council's support to McClatchy Co. of efforts by the Knight-Ridder Council of The Newspaper Guild-CWA for a "Worker Friendly" buyout of the Knight-Ridder newspapers, including the *Akron Beacon Journal*, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval of the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

APPROVED: _____

Bill Furey, President of Council

Submitted to the Mayor for approval this
_____ day of _____, 2006

Approved by the Mayor _____, 2006

Katherine A. Procop, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia A. Kaderle, CMC
Clerk of Council

1st Rdg. _____
2nd Rdg. _____
3rd Rdg. _____

Passed: _____
Yes _____ No _____

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I, Cynthia A Kaderle, Clerk of Council, of the City of Twinsburg, State of Ohio, do hereby certify that publication of the foregoing ordinances, resolutions was duly made by posting true copies thereof at five of the most public places in said City as determined by Section 113.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Twinsburg; each for a period of fifteen days commencing on the _____ day of _____, 2006

Cynthia A. Kaderle, CMC
Clerk of Council
City of Twinsburg